

Message Text

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TAGS: PEPR, NATO, FR, US, XJ, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS COVERAGE OF AFRICAN POLICY MOVES
BY WEST

1. NUMEROUS ARTICLES IN SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS OVER
JUNE 3-5 WEEKEND DEAL WITH AFRICAN EVENTS. PARTICULAR
ATTENTION IS CENTERED ON AFRICA ASPECT OF NATO COUNCIL
MEETING IN WASHINGTON AND ON CURRENT PARIS MEETING OF
AFRICAN EXPERTS OF WESTERN COUNTRIES. IN THIS CONTEXT
MUCH IS MADE OF NATO "EXPEDITIONARY CORPS" OR "PUNITIVE
FORCE" AS PRESS PREFERS TO LABEL IT. U.S. IS SEEN AS
INSTIGATOR AND ORGANIZER OF SUCH EFFORTS AND AFRICANS
ARE DESCRIBED AS "CANNON FODDER" FOR USE OF "POLITICIANS
AND GENERALS OF U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF NATO"
(A. MASLENNIKOV, JUNE 4 PRAVDA).

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2. WHILE "NATO" FORCE IDEA IS CLEAR AND PREDOMINANT
THEME OF HEAVY WEEKEND COVERAGE, UNUSUAL AMOUNT OF
ATTENTION IS ALSO DEVOTED TO FRENCH ROLE IN AFRICA -
SPECIFICALLY IN ZAIRE AND IN CHAD - AND TO FRENCH
LEFTIST OPINION OPPOSING OR CRITICIZING FRENCH AFRICA
POLICY. THE SOVIET PRESS REPORTS THE DEMAND BY

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CPF IN THE ASSEMBLY FOR AN OFFICIAL EXPLANATION BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT OF ITS "INTERVENTION" IN CHAD (PRAVDA, JUNE 3). AND THE POLITBURO OF THE CPF AND THE ENATIONAL BUREAU OF COMMUNIST YOUTH" REPORTEDLY ISSUED A STATEMENT CLAIMING THAT THE PARIS MEETING IN AFRICA OF WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES HAS THE GOAL OF MAINTAINING CONTROL OF MULTINATIONAL TRUSTS OVER THE RESOURCES OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. AS RESULT OF MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CHAD, THE COMORO ISLANDS, ZAIRE, AND OTHER PARTS OF AFRICA, SAID THE STATEMENT, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS BECOME THE "AVANT-GARDE OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE" (PRAVDA, JUNE 4). MITTERAND IS CITED AS CRITICIZING ASSISTANCE TO "ROTTEN REGIME OF MOBUTU" AND WARNING OF UNCERTAIN OUTCOME OF THIS ADVENTURE (IZVESTIYA, JUNE 2).

3. JUNE 4 PRAVDA ALSO NOTES U.S. MILITARY MISSION TO SOMALIA WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS FIRST STEP TOWARD SUPPLY OF HUGE QUANTITY OF U.S. WEAPONS TO THAT COUNTRY (SEPTTEL).

4. WEEKEND PRESS ALSO HAS DESULTORY, CRITICAL COMMENT ON U.S. DOMESTIC CONCERN OVER ADMINISTRATION'S ALLEGED INTENTION TO INCREASE SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY IN ANGOLA.

5. LAST AND LEAST IN WEEKEND COVERAGE OF AFRICA IS HALF PAGE ARTICLE IN JUNE 2 IZVESTIYA ON APARTHEID IN SOUTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFRICA BY A. A. GROMYKO, DIRECTOR OF AFRICA INSTITUTE OF ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (AND SON OF FONMIN). IN TYPICALLY PONDEROUS STYLE, GROMYKO RECOUNTS HISTORY OF UN EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM OF APARTHEID, CRITICIZES WESTERN INTEREST IN WORKING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN "RACISTS" TO AMELIORATE SITUATION, AND USES ZAPU LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO TO REBUT CHARGES OF SOVIET "EXPANSIONISM" IN AFRICA.

6. COMMENT: SOVIET MEDIA ARTICLES ON WESTERN POLICY MOVES VIS A VIS AFRICA ARE PREDICTABLE REFLECTION OF DEPTH OF SOVIET CONCERN THESE MOVES AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES. WHILE SOVIET PROPAGANDA CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON U.S. LEADERSHIP OF "NATO" ACTIVITIES, WE NOTE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN WEEKEND COVERAGE OF CRITICAL SOVIET ATTENTION TO FRANCE AND ITS ROLE. MATLOCK

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